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Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



INCREASED  
CHINESE SUPPORT FACILITIES  
ROUTES 412 AND 4  
NORTHERN LAOS

NPIC/R-99/69  
NOVEMBER 1969

GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM  
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING  
AND DECLASSIFICATION

W A R N I N G

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SUMMARY

25X1D

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A significant increase in the number of Chinese support facilities along the southernmost segments of Routes 412 and 4 in northern Laos is observed on photography of [REDACTED]. The route from Ban Syda, approximately 7 nautical miles (nm) south of the Laos/China border, to Muong Sai is observed. Construction on this route began in [REDACTED].

The number of buildings along this segment has increased by approximately 100 percent since [REDACTED] when 549 buildings were observed. There are now over 1,100 buildings seen.

The largest increase in facilities is in the areas of Ban Houalouang, Ban Namo Tai, and Ban Namxe, where a total of 284 new buildings, numerous occupied antiaircraft artillery (AAA) positions, and defensive ground positions are evident.

The route is in excellent condition. Seventy-two vehicles were observed along the route. A new bypass bridge has been constructed south of Ban Syda. Constructional maintenance, such as drainage culverts, turnaround areas, and general road repairs, is also evident.

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## BASIC DESCRIPTION

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Since [REDACTED] the number of Chinese support facilities along the Ban Botene-Muong Sai road segments of Routes 412 and 4 in northern Laos has increased significantly (Figure 1). Photography of [REDACTED] reveals most of the southernmost 52 nm segment. The number of buildings along this segment has increased over 100 percent since [REDACTED] when 549 buildings were evident. There are now over 1,100 buildings observed at 57 locations along this segment.

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The largest increase is in Ban Houalouang, Ban Namoi Tai, and Ban Namxe, and in the areas adjacent to these three villages.

At Ban Houalouang, four separate barracks and support areas are observed. These areas consist of at least 97 partially concealed buildings under a moderate tree canopy. Recreational sites containing [REDACTED] are located within two of these areas.\* Three AAA positions, two occupied with 37mm weapons and one under construction, are on the surrounding hills.

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At Ban Namoi Tai, at least 104 buildings, partially concealed under a moderate tree canopy, are evident in four separate barracks and support facilities. Two facilities contain [REDACTED]. Extensive row cropping is evident throughout the area.

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The area around Ban Namxe (Figure 2) contains six barracks and support facilities. One is an occupied probable electronics and communications site. At least 83 partially concealed buildings, under a moderate tree canopy, are within this area. Three facilities contain [REDACTED]. Defensive measures throughout the area include one occupied 37mm AAA position, three unoccupied AAA positions, and two defensive ground positions consisting of trenching occupied by small weapons. The equipment within the probable electronics and communications site remains unidentified because of small scale and poor interpretability of the photography. Extensive row cropping is observed within the area.

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A probable headquarters/barracks/support complex is 2.8 nm southeast of Ban Namxe (Figure 3). The complex consists of six sub-areas. Area 1 is a probable headquarters area containing seven buildings, a recreational area, an access road, and a possible communications site. Area 2 is a probable maintenance and support facility which consists of 15 buildings, row crops, and an access road. Sixteen vehicles are evident within the area. Area 3 is a probable barracks area consisting of 12 partially concealed buildings under a moderate tree canopy and a recreational area. Area 4 is another probable barracks area with 22 buildings and a basketball court. Area 5 is a probable storage area consisting of 23 buildings, row crops, a recreational area, and an access road. Two vehicles are evident within the area. Area 6 is a probable administration/barracks/support area with 40 buildings, an access road, a foot bridge, foot trails, and extensive row cropping.

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Photography reveals that the visible portion of the Ban Botene-Muong Sai road is in excellent condition (Figure 4). A Chinese work force numbering from 5,000 to 7,000 personnel is employed in construction and maintenance activities on the road, according to collateral information. Four probable rock crushers are approximately 6.5 nm southeast of Ban Namxe in a two-level gravel-loading facility. Seventy-two vehicles are visible along the road.

A new single lane bypass bridge (Figure 5) has been constructed approximately 800 meters south of Ban Syda. The new bridge, south of the main highway bridge, is connected at both ends to Route 412 to facilitate traffic in the event the main bridge is damaged or destroyed.

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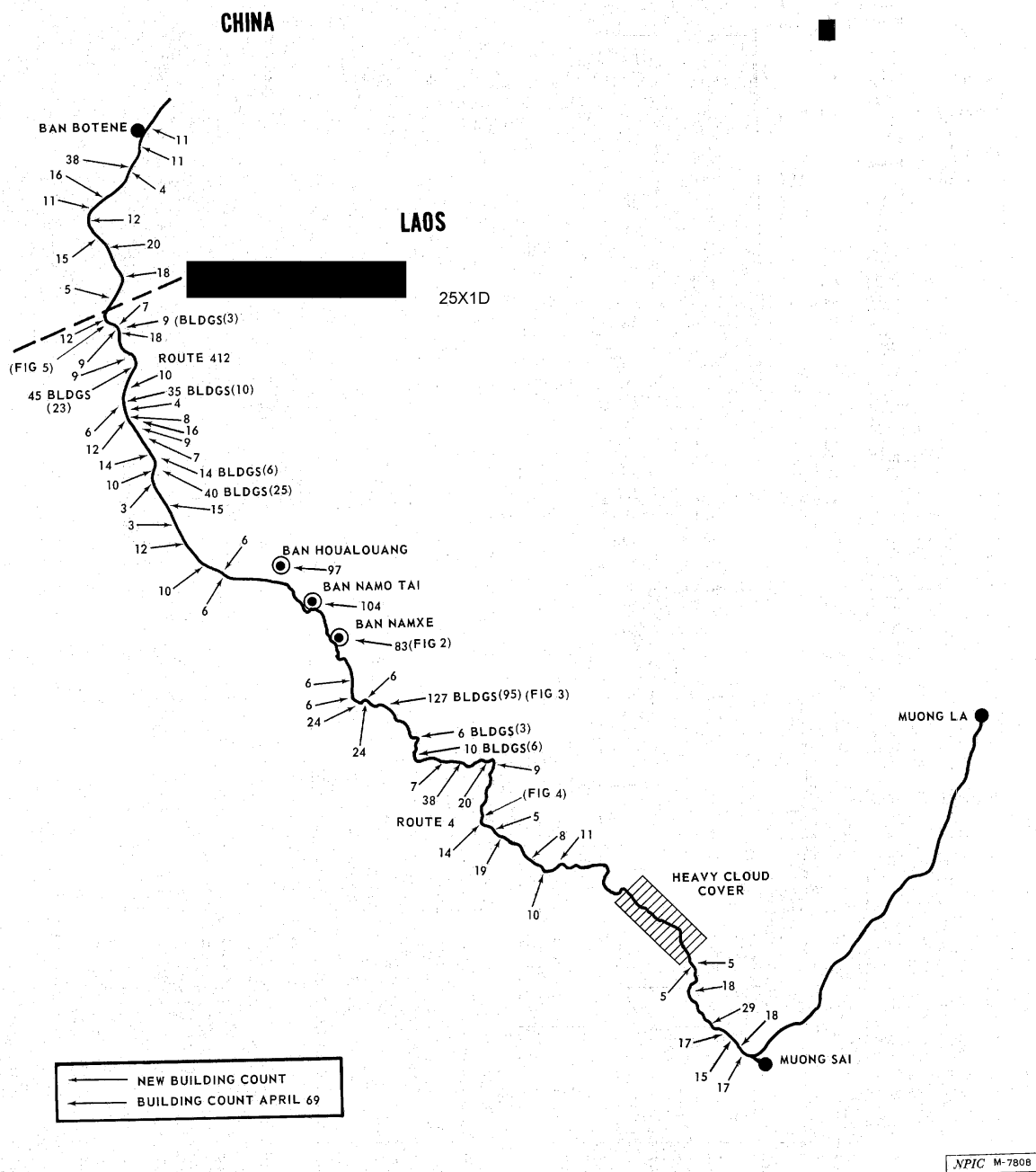


FIGURE 1. CHINESE SUPPORT FACILITIES, ROUTES 412 AND 4, NORTHERN LAOS

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NO FOREIGN DISSEM EXCEPT [REDACTED]

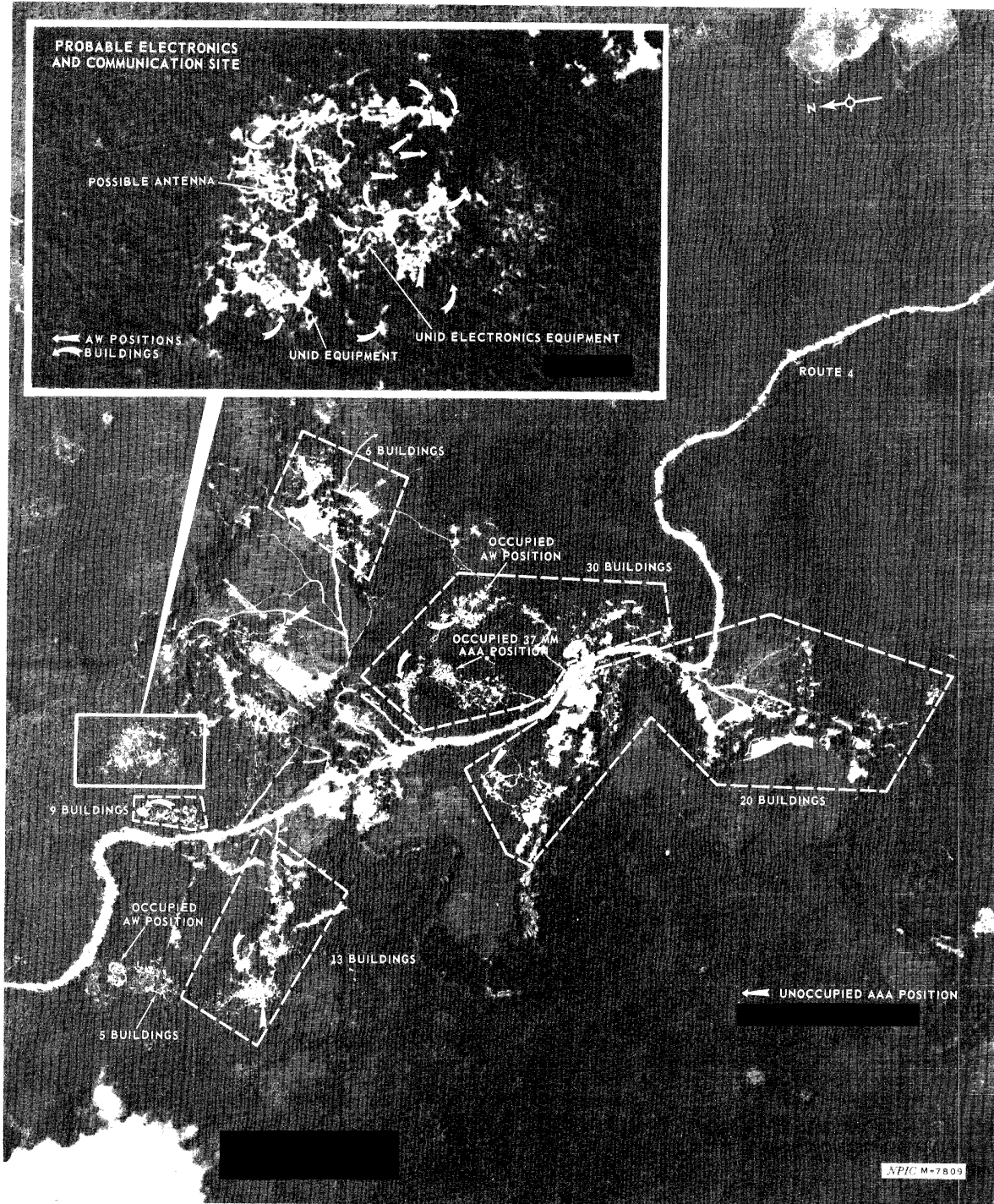


FIGURE 2. CHINESE SUPPORT FACILITIES, BAN NAMXE, NORTHERN LAOS  
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NO FOREIGN DISSEM EXCEPT [REDACTED]

25X1B

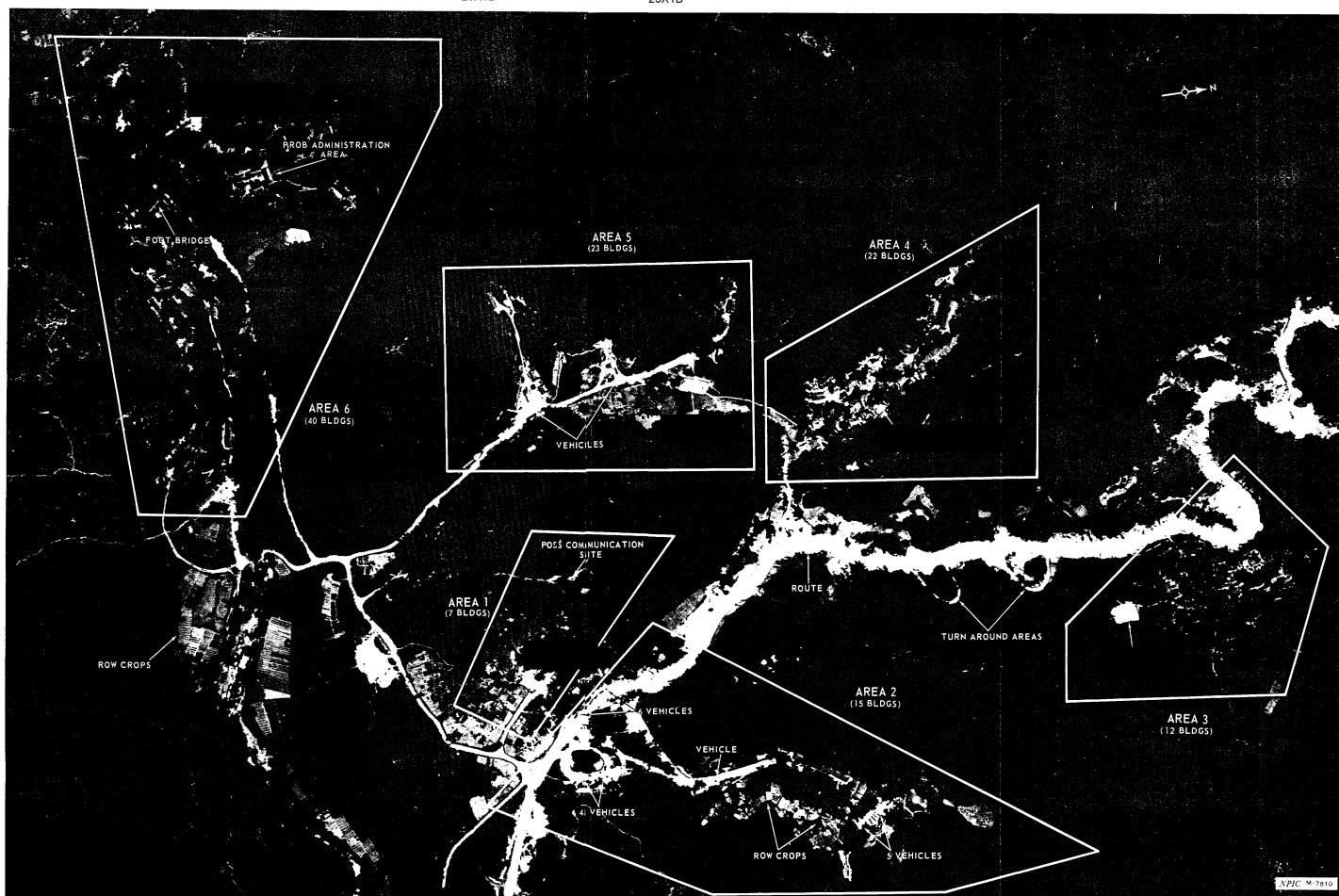
25X1C

25X1B

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25X1B



25X1D

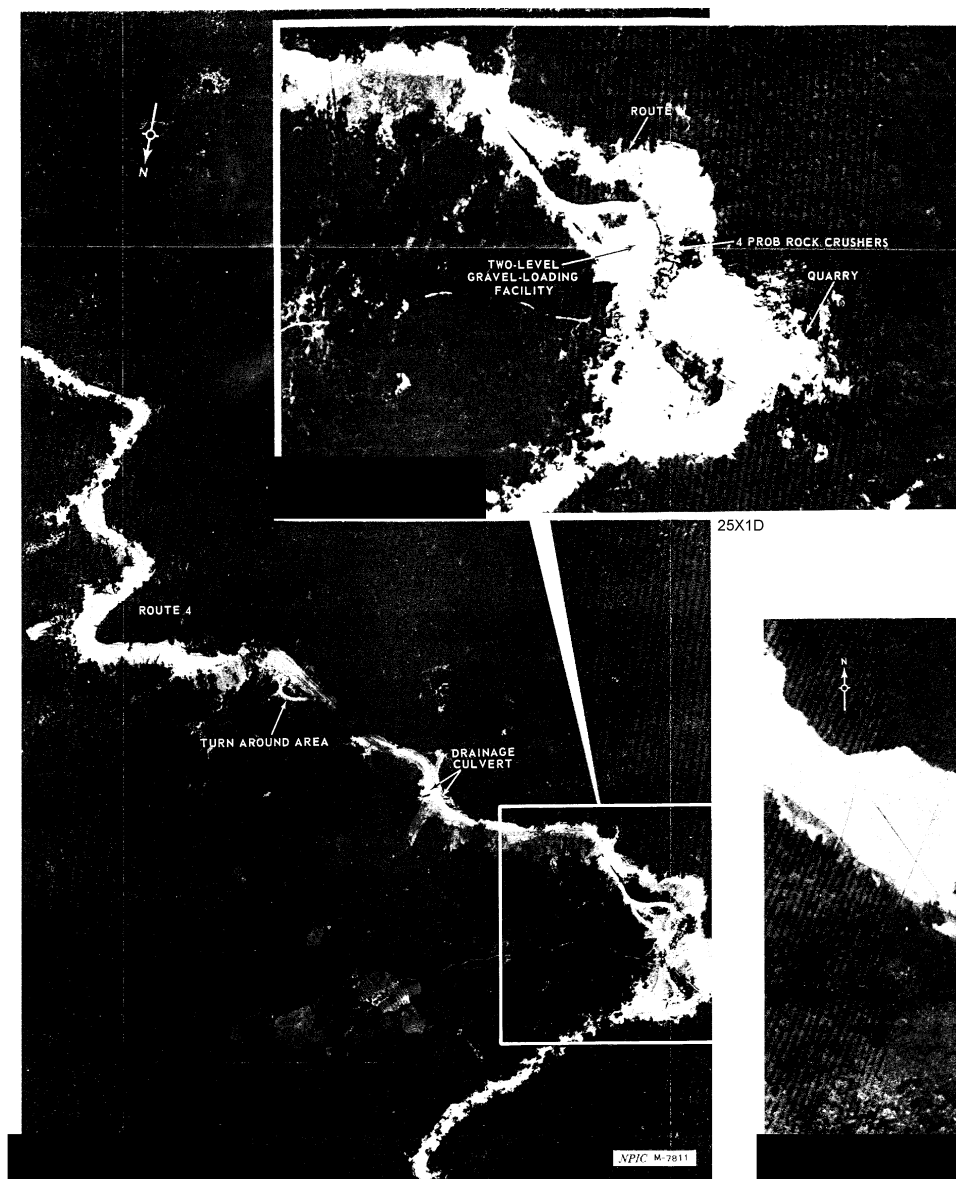
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FIGURE 3. PROBABLE HEADQUARTERS/BARRACKS/SUPPORT COMPLEX, BAI HANG, NORTHERN LAOS

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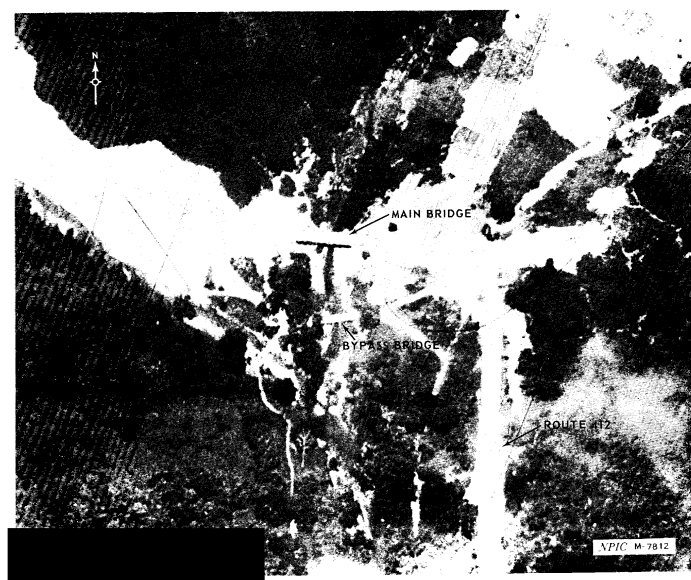


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FIGURE 4. BAN BOMMIE - DONG SAI ROAD, NORTHERN LAOS



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FIGURE 5. NEW BYPASS BRIDGE, ROUTE 412, BAN SYDA, NORTHERN LAOS

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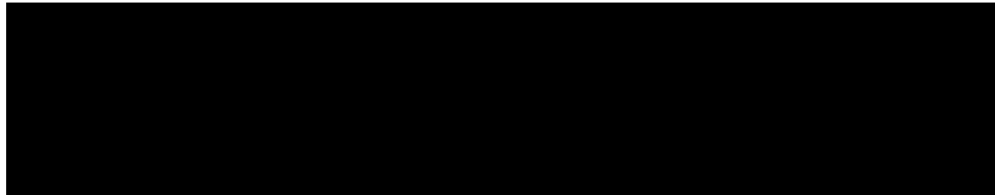
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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

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MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC Chart, Series ONC, Sheets J-10 and 11, scale 1:1,000,000  
AMS Map, Series L7015, Sheets 5350-I and IV, scale 1:50,000  
AMS Map, Series 1501, Sheets NF 47-12, 16, NF 48-9,13, scale 1:250,000

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